(b) whether Pakistan has launched a concerted offensive against the Indians fishermen in the disputed Sir Cleek area of the Arabian Sea, apparently with the long-term objejctive of holding way over the marine resource-rich region;

(c) whether Pakistan's armed vessels of its Marine Security Agency often intrudes into the Indian waters off the Saurashtra-Kutch coast; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to check these evil Pakistani designs?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) here are some differences in the interpretation of the boundary in the Sir Cleek area. Discussions, are underway with Pakistan with a view to demarcating the Indo-Pak boundary in the area.

(b) There have been instances of Indian fishing vessels and fishermen being captured by Pakistan. The Indian Coast Guard have also captured Pakistani vessels and fishermen inside our territorial waters.

(c) and (d) whenever such instances have occurred, Government have protested to the Government of Pakistan and urged them to prevent their recurrence. A constant vigil is being maintained in the area by our concerned authorities.

Pakistan's Opposition against India's securing permanent seat in Security Council

1667. SHRI DHULESHWR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Pakistan has decided to oppose Indian efforts to secure a permanent seat in the Security Council; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and steps it propose to take to meet the Pakistan's bid to oppose India for permanent seat in the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) (a) and (b) India has stressed the need for a restructuring of the Security Council in order to reflect more than three fold increase in the membership of the United Nations and the changes in the international situation since the world body's inception. However India has so far not made any specific proposal for a permanent seat for her in the Security Council. The question of opposition by Pakistan therefore does not arise.

Delay in issue of Passports due to Police Report

1668. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is too much delay in issuing of passports to the applicants because of inordinate delay in receiving the police report;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to do away with the police report for issuing of passport to the applicants;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to involve elected representative to recommend the passport application forms; and

(d) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expeditious issue of Passports

1669. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he announced in a recently held Regional

Passport Officers' meeting that passports will be issued to the applicants within 30 days;

(b) whether it is also a fact there is acute shortage of passport books;

(c) what is the number of applications pending for issuing passport at Ahmedabad Regional Passport Office;

(d) what is the number of passport books available with the passport office at Ahmedabad today; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to issue the passport expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) We have impressed on the Passport Officers to issue passports in all the cases within 5 weeks of receipt of applications. They have been advised to strive to attain this objective by motivation of staff to maximise productivity.

(b) Adequate no. of passport booklets are now available with the passport offices.

(c) The no. of applications pending at various stages of processing as on 28-2-92 is 43181.

(d) No. of blank passport booklets available with the Passport Office Ahmedabad as on 28-2-92 is 9268.

(e) Passport procedures have been simplified to facilitate expeditious issue of passport service. These are given in the Statement (Please refer to the statement appended to the USQ 1593).

Human Rights Organisation Report on Terrorists Killings in Kashmir

1670. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Times of India dated 10th February, 1992 under the heading "Asia Watch Report—An attempt to legitimise terrorist killings in Kashmir";

(b) if so, what are the details of above mentioned US based human rights organisations report; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report documents the so-called human rights situation in Kashmir and highlights alleged human rights violations by the personnel of the security forces.

(c) While reaffirming its commitment to uphold human rights, Government regard the Asia Watch Report as one-sided, grossly exaggerated and riddled with inaccuracies Government notes that the report glosses over the massive human rights violations committed by terrorists in Kashmir who have infiltrated from across the border after having received training and arms in Pakistan.

Purchase of Uranium by Pakistan

1671. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent press reports that Pakistan are buying enriched uranium from Tadjikistan for its nuclear programme;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Tadjikistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI). (a) Yes, Sir.